

Centrico BRIEFING NOTE

Using ITS to manage Europe's busiest roads



Flemish Traffic Information on the Internet

SUMMARY

The «Verkeerscentrum Vlaanderen» (Flanders Traffic Control Centre) monitors and manages traffic on Flemish highways and arterial roads. The website of the «Verkeerscentrum Vlaanderen» gives an overview of traffic conditions in Flanders. On the website visitors can also subscribe to a free personalised e-mail service and view real-time camera images.

Real-time traffic information

In June 2004 the «Verkeerscentrum Vlaanderen» launched the website www.verkeerscentrum.be. The real-time traffic overview on the website is automatically distilled from the central database of the «Verkeerscentrum». This database contains information from an array of sources: loops, camera images, information from police services, public servants and other correspondents.



Traffic overview on a map

The traffic overview can be consulted in two different ways:

- a map with colour indications and different zoom levels
- a list which can be filtered

The website also provides an overview of planned road

works on highways and national roads in Flanders.

On the English version of the website, visitors can learn more about the «Verkeerscentrum Vlaanderen» and the projects in which it participates.

On average www.verkeerscentrum.be is consulted by 100,000 users each month.

“Spitsmail” a free personalised e-mail service

Shortly after launching the website, the «Verkeerscentrum Vlaanderen» started a new and unique service: “Spitsmail”. Spitsmail is a free and personalised e-mail service for traffic information.

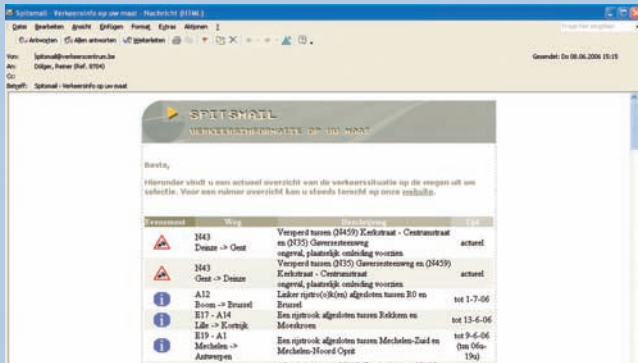
People can subscribe via the website. On the subscription form they have to:

- indicate which information they want to receive (traffic jams, accidents, road works, general information);
- select the trajectories of their interest;
- specify when they want to receive the e-mail (time of day; workdays only).

Each individual “Spitsmail” is derived from the central database at the time indicated by the subscriber.

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An example of "Spitsmail"

Currently over 3,700 people have already subscribed to this personalised traffic overview.

Live camera images

In the summer 2005 live images of 16 locations on the highways and ring roads in the Antwerp and Brussels regions were added to the website. These images are live feeds from the cameras the «Verkeerscentrum Vlaanderen» uses to monitor traffic.

The camera images can be viewed on the traffic information map by selecting the option "cameras". When moving the cursor over the camera icons, the image pops up.



Live camera images on the traffic information map

It is also possible to view all images at once on the overview page.



Overview of the live camera images

The «Verkeerscentrum Vlaanderen» has opted for still images which, on a server level, refresh every 10 seconds in stead of a live stream feed. In this way, also visitors with a slower Internet connection can access this feature.

In the near future the selection of images will be supplemented by additional images of the Brussels region and of the regions of Ghent and Lummén.

For more information on this topic, please contact:
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For further information on other CENTRICO activities visit:

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